



California Department of Food and Agriculture

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CDFA HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE & OVERVIEW

Overview

The fertile soils and temperate climate of California create an ideal environment for agriculture.

The Golden State's abundant natural resources have been carefully harnessed and nurtured throughout history so that California is proud to claim one of the most sophisticated food and fiber production and distribution systems in the world.

Today, California agriculture is nearly a \$27 billion dollar industry that produces 350 different crop and livestock commodities and generates more than \$70 billion in related economic activity.

It is significant to note that, only 10% of our disposable income must be spent on food compared to 24% in 1949.

This tremendous achievement has been possible through continued advancements in technology and the innovation of California agriculture.

Historical Perspective

Government oversight of agriculture in California began in 1880, when the Leg-

islature appointed a seven-member State Board of Viticulture, precipitated by a need to protect grape vines from phylloxera root rot.

Social and technological changes around the turn of the century, brought the need for additional agricultural protection and consumer assurance. In 1899, California pioneered the fight to keep the Mexican fruit fly out of the United States.

In 1911, California officials began inspecting the baggage of ship passengers from Hawaii in response to the discovery of the Mediterranean fruit fly on the island.

On July 22, 1919, an act of the California Legislature created a single state department, which would be responsible for overseeing the protection and promotion of the state's agriculture.

CDFA Today

For nearly 80 years, CDFA has provided the highest level of service to the state's citizens.

Among its 1,700 employees statewide are scientists, economists, marketing spe-

cialists, laboratory technicians, administrators and communicators, who work tirelessly for the benefit of the citizens of this state.

Inspectors examine meat, poultry, vegetables, fruits, dairy and other foods, to ensure safety and quality; pest eradication teams work to prevent infestations of unwanted pests and disease; international trade representatives help growers create new markets for their products overseas; and biological control researchers work to discover new, environmentally friendly alternatives to pesticides.

These are just a few of the vital functions CDFA employees perform.

In partnership with federal and county agricultural officials, along with other government agencies, CDFA will continue to serve California citizens by protecting agriculture and promoting its growth both domestically and abroad.

CDFA HELPS PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR CALIFORNIA

Many of the current issues facing agriculture are interrelated, demanding consideration of multiple issues simultaneously.

Examples of these issues include food safety, public health, disease/pest prevention, international trade and a myriad of environmental concerns.

Sound public policy must recognize and simultaneously address these continuous opportunities and challenges.

Solutions are most effectively achieved by cooperative partnerships involving government, academia and industry.

Each segment of this triad has unique strengths, resources, personnel, understanding, expertise, and responsibilities. It is essential that CDFA build an infrastructure of cooperation within Califor-

nia to share information, build consensus, and ultimately develop lasting solutions.

Priorities

Programs are being developed to support enhanced quality assurance and production or on-farm food safety management practices.

CDFA continues to strengthen pest and disease prevention activities and enhance the ability to respond to emergencies that threaten California and impact trade.

Efforts to promote marketing strategies to enhance exports, also continue.

CDFA's strategic planning will also maximize partnership with government



agencies, border states and others.

Implementation of these and other policies and programs will help create jobs, help bolster the state's economy, and prepare California agriculture for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st Century.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES



CDFA's

Animal Health & Food Safety Services team provides services to protect public health, protect the health of California's livestock and poultry, provide safety of food and animal origin, and protect California livestock owners against losses due to animal theft and straying.

Animal Health & Food Safety Services is comprised of five teams: Animal Health; Meat & Poultry Inspection; Milk & Dairy Foods Control; Livestock Identification; and the California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System.

Animal Health

Prevents, detects, contains and eradicates emergency animal diseases through surveillance and control of the movement of animals and animal products.

Regulates veterinary biologics to assure the production of safe veterinary products to protect animal health and the safety of animal food products.

Provides leadership for implementing innovative concepts in veterinary medicine and deters the misuse of drugs in horses entered at horse shows, competitions and sales.

Meat & Poultry Inspection

Provides meat and poultry inspection services in slaughterhouses and processing plants which are exempt from federal inspection to ensure that only properly labeled products are provided to consumers.

Ensures that meat and poultry products not intended for human or pet consumption are removed from food channels.

Monitors rendering companies and

conducts an industry-funded program to assure compliance with state regulations.

Milk & Dairy Foods Control

Ensures that milk, milk products and products resembling milk products are safe and wholesome, meet state and federal compositional requirements, are properly labeled and are represented to the consumer in a truthful manner.

Contributes to the protection and improvement of milk and dairy foods safety through inspections, sampling, technical assistance, training, research, standards development and laboratory evaluations and certification activities.

Participates in voluntary cooperative inspection programs with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, USDA, the state Department of Health Services and local health jurisdictions.

Assures that tests used to determine the basis for payment for milk and cream are accurate.

Livestock Identification

Protects cattle owners in California against loss of animals by theft or straying.

Registers livestock brands; inspects cattle for lawful possession prior to transportation, sale or slaughter; and records information obtained by such inspections.

Assists local law enforcement with investigations and prosecutions involving cattle theft.

California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System

The California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System receives funding through CDFA and operates under the U.C. Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine.

Provides California with the highest quality livestock and poultry disease diagnostic support and enhancement of livestock and poultry health management. Recognizes and disseminates new knowledge of diseases common to animals and humans.



Dairy Council of California...Making Curriculum Come Alive

Offering teacher-designed and tested, **free** nutrition education programs that complement science, art, math, language arts, social studies and agricultural curriculum



- **Healthy Choices, Healthy Me!**...encourages second graders to choose healthy meals and snacks.

- **Now We're Cooking!**®...strengthens K-6 skills via cooking activities; recipes enhance multicultural education.

- **Shaping Up My Choices**...focuses decision-making and problem-solving skills for upper-elementary students through food and activity choices.

- **Exercise Your Options**...young teens are challenged to consider their options, develop realistic plans and identify roadblocks to improve their daily food and activity choices.

- **Mobile Dairy Classroom**...brings a live cow and calf to your school; teaches elementary students the origins of milk and how it fits in a healthy diet.



For information on how to receive Dairy Council's **free** education programs, call 1-888-868-3133. Or, visit our web site at: www.dairycouncilofca.org

FAIRS & EXPOSITIONS

Fair Time is Fun Time — and with help from Fairs and Expositions, Californians enjoy the California State Fair and some 80 district, county and citrus fairs held throughout the state.

California fairs offer much, much more than cotton candy and carousels; they are successfully providing innovative educational opportunities and resources for bolstering the strength of rural, suburban and urban communities.

Everything from agricultural literacy programs, daily farmers' markets and even small-scale working farms can be found at local fairgrounds throughout the state.

While providing the public with a first-

hand look at agriculture and its role in our daily lives, California fairs generate \$1.6 billion in economic activity each year. This includes revenues received from horse racing, fair admissions, food and ride concessions, exhibits, entertainment and year-round rental of fairground facilities.

Each year, more than 13 million people attend county fairs. Fairs attract a diverse range of ethnic and age groups unreplicated in any other regular public activity.

CDFA Fairs and Expositions (F&E) employees provide financial support and oversight to the state's 80 fairs in ways that help maximize the benefits of fairs to all Californians.

F&E's educational outreach program, the Agricultural Literacy and Fairs Alliance (ALFA), puts fairs in direct contact with the communities they serve by providing unique and innovative educational opportunities for local youth.

The Emergency Preparedness Program is helping ensure that fairs continue to benefit their communities even in times of natural disaster. Fairs play this important role by serving as local staging areas for state and federal emergency-relief work crews and by providing shelter and protection for displaced individuals and livestock during such disasters as fires, flooding and earthquakes.



INSPECTION SERVICES

CDFA Inspection Services provides consumer protection, grading services and regulation of a wide variety of agricultural commodities, fertilizing materials, commercial feed and livestock drugs.

Inspections make certain that conditions are met for compliance with standards for maturity, grade, size, weight, pack and labeling to prevent the marketing of substandard commodities.

Inspection Services is comprised of four teams:

Agricultural Commodities & Regulatory Service

Consists of three program elements:

- **Feed & Livestock Drug Program (F&LD):** Ensures that feed and livestock drugs are safe, effective and meet the quality guaranteed by the manufacturer.
- **Fertilizing Material Program:** Ensures that fertilizers meet the quality guaranteed by the manufacturer.
- **Grain & Commodity Inspection Program (GCI):** Inspects and certifies grains, rice, beans and other commodities in accordance with federal and state regulations. All inspectors, samplers, weighers and technicians are licensed by the federal government, which monitors licensed personnel to assure uniform inspection.

Shipping Point Inspection

Operates under a Federal-State Cooperative Agreement with USDA which authorizes CDFA inspectors to use federal grade standards for fruits, vegetables, and nuts, and issue federal-state inspection certificates.

Provides optional third-party grading and certification service to the fruit, nut and vegetable industries at all points of origin and most receiving points in the state and is also the official certifier of all commodities required to meet export specifications.

Center for Analytical Chemistry

Provides analyses of pesticide residues in fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, animal feeds and fertilizer products.

Operates California's Export Laboratory Services, which is designed to provide analytical services to agribusiness exporting commodities to international markets.

Fruit, Vegetable & Egg Quality Control Branch (FVEQC)

Contains seven distinct program elements:

- **Standardization:** Responsible for the enforcement and maintenance of minimum standards for quality, maturity, container, marking size and

packing requirements.

- **Avocado Certification:** CDFA inspects avocados at the point of packing to ensure compliance with maturity, quality, size and weight standards.
- **Egg Quality Control:** Ensures that healthful and wholesome eggs of known quality are marketed in California.
- **California Organic Program:** Responsible for enforcing provisions of the law which govern the sale of foods labeled as organic.
- **Processing Tomato Inspection Program:** Provides training and oversight of a program which inspects processing tomatoes for defects, color and soluble solids or sugars.
- **Wine Grape Inspection Program:** Provides training and oversight in the inspection of wine grapes and by-products.
- **Garlic & Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program:** Inspects garlic and onions to be dehydrated. Inspectors grade for defects, size, dirt, foreign material and moisture.

MARKETING SERVICES

Marketing Services assists in the marketing of California's food and agricultural commodities by administering a number of marketing programs. The marketing programs have been established to encourage efficient production and trade of California's diverse agricultural products at reasonable prices to consumers. Specifically Marketing Services provides:

- Administrative guidance and oversight to California's nearly 50 marketing boards.
- Information and economic analysis on dairy marketing issues and other key agricultural issues.
- Accurate accounting and verification of nearly \$4 billion of payments made to California dairy producers each year.
- Confidence and stability in agricultural markets through an effective licensing program of agricultural handlers and processors.

Cal Agricultural Statistics Service

Prepares and distributes statistics on California agriculture, a federal-state entity operating under a cooperative agree-

ment between the CDFA and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Estimates of planted and harvested acreage, production, stocks and crop use. Yield and production forecasts are issued monthly during the growing season.

Publishes statistics covering inventory numbers, production and prices of livestock and poultry and their products, and periodic reports of weather, crop and range conditions.

Much of the agricultural production data throughout this Resource Directory were compiled by Agricultural Statistics.

Dairy Marketing

Encourages sound protection and marketing of dairy products by resolving public policy issues and providing key market information. Regulates minimum milk farm producers and regulates dairy trade practices in the marketplace.

Milk Pooling

Administers the Milk Pooling Act which provides standards for distributing monthly statewide bulk market milk revenues to California dairy producers.

Market Enforcement

Promotes and fosters equitable marketing practices among producers, handlers and processors of California farm products through the regulation of marketing practices.

Fulfills this mission by gaining compliance through cooperation, processing license applications, conducting audits and applying corrective enforcement, in accordance with state regulations.

Marketing

Provides administrative guidance for California marketing programs established under state law. There are 25 marketing orders and one marketing agreement operating under the Marketing Act; four Councils and 18 commissions operate under their individual laws. These organizations allow commodity producers and/or handlers to collectively generate funds to create programs and support research, inspection, promotion, and marketing projects which benefit the industry as a whole.

MEASUREMENT STANDARDS

Measurement Standards is responsible for enforcing California weights and measures laws and regulations:

- (1) Ensures the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices;
- (2) Verify the quantity of both bulk and packaged commodities; and
- (3) Enforce quality, advertising and label standards for most petroleum products.

Measurement Standards is comprised of four teams which work closely with county sealers of weights and measures who, under CDFA supervision and direction, carry out the vast majority of weights and measures enforcement activities locally.

Metrology

Maintains, in concert with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the state standards of measurement. These physical standards form the legal and scientific basis for all California commercial transactions involving weight or measure.

Compliance and Evaluation Programs

California Type Evaluation

California law requires that all new models of commercial weighing and measuring devices be evaluated and approved

by CDFA before used in California.

This program operates one of only four laboratories authorized by the NIST as participating laboratories of the National Type Evaluation Program and the US/Canada Mutual Recognition Program. As the only authorized laboratory in the western United States, the California laboratory at CDFA serves to evaluate and approve weighing and measuring devices for manufacturers in California, other states, and other countries. These devices are typically marketed throughout the U.S. and are used commercially to ensure accurate transactions involving weighing or measuring.

Measurement Compliance

Responsible for minimizing measurement error in commercial transactions through periodic inspection and testing of commercial weighing and measuring devices such as supermarket scales, gasoline dispensers and large capacity truck scales.

Assures that sales of commodities made directly over weighing and measuring devices or in packages, are accurately measured to minimize measurement errors and fraud or misrepresentation of quantity.

Responsible for registering device repair companies and their employees who perform services for device owners/users.

Weighmaster/Petroleum Program

Petroleum Products

Maintains minimum quality standards for fuels (gasoline, gasoline/oxygenate blends, diesel fuel, kerosene, compressed natural gas and fuel oil) and most automotive products (motor oil, brake fluid, automatic transmission fluid, gear oil and engine coolants) sold in California.

Regulates the advertising and labeling of these products.

Conducts open inspections and undercover investigations to ensure the quality of these products.

Operates two laboratories within the state for the testing of routine and suspect samples. When substandard products are found, they are removed from the marketplace and appropriate enforcement action is taken.

Weighmaster Enforcement

Licenses as weighmasters, individuals or firms who weigh or measure bulk commodities and issue certificates of accuracy.

Verifies weight statements on weighmaster certificates, conduct inspections and investigates complaints alleging fraudulent use or misuse of weighmaster certificates.

PLANT HEALTH AND PEST PREVENTION SERVICES

Plant, Health & Pest Prevention Services protects California's agricultural and natural resources against damage caused by exotic plant pests and diseases.

Plant, Health & Pest Prevention Services is comprised of four teams:

Pest Exclusion

Keeps serious plant pests out of the state and stops or minimizes the spread of newly-arrived pests or diseases.

Intercepts thousands of unwanted pests from cars, trucks and buses entering the state each year at California border stations.

Enforces plant quarantines within the state by investigators, inspectors and biologists, sometimes with the help of dogs trained to sniff out unauthorized agricultural commodities.

Administers a program for nursery, cotton and seed and ensures the highest quality planting materials and fiber.

Pest Detection/Emergency Projects

Responsible for quickly detecting and eradicating serious exotic pests that may enter the state.

In peak season, approximately 100,000 exotic insect traps are placed in residential yards and other sites throughout the state.

Early detection has led to over 60 eradication programs against Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), gypsy moth, Japanese beetle and other devastating pests.

Integrated Pest Control

Directs seven pest control and eradication programs and one pest control research program.

Directs efforts to combat the pink bollworm, cotton boll weevil and curly top virus.

Responsible for protecting rangeland, waterways, crops and urban areas through the weed and vertebrate pest programs.

Manages California's largest biological control program.

A team of scientists evaluate, rear and release beneficial insects to provide long-term management of serious pest problems.

Plant Pest Diagnostics Lab

More than 35 scientists and support staff identify plant diseases, weeds and insect pests from 70,000 samples submitted annually by CDFA pest prevention programs, county agricultural agencies, universities and the public.

This state-of-the-art diagnostic facility houses the state's largest insect collection and a herbarium containing 20,000 plant specimens, other reference collections and a library of more than 28,000 volumes.

Experts from this team also support California's agricultural export market by determining whether certain agricultural products can be certified as free of serious pests and diseases.



STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(916) 654-0462 • Fax (916) 657-4240

The State Board of Food and Agriculture advises the Governor and the Secretary of Food and Agriculture on agricultural issues and consumer needs.

The Board may make investigations, conduct hearings and prosecute actions concerning any matter or subject which is under CDFA's jurisdiction.

During 1998, the State Board played an important role in addressing major issues affecting both agriculture and the citizens of this state.

Six public forums were held throughout the state – bringing together local, state and federal government officials, agricultural representatives and the public to discuss issues in agriculture.

These public forums addressed flood damages from winter storms, food safety, urbanization, environmental issues, pest prevention strategies and future trends in agriculture.

The Board's 15 members are appointed by the Governor, and are carefully selected to represent a broad range of agricultural commodities, a variety of geographic regions, and both the University of California and the California State University academic systems.

Board members are residents and citizens of California and are specially qualified for service through actual farm, business, economic agricultural training, environmental protection or consumer affairs experience.

Appointments do not require Senate confirmation.

**For scheduling or other information on the
State Board of Food & Agriculture, contact:**

**Public Affairs
(916) 654-0462**

Board Members

John H. Kautz, Lodi
Board President

Charles D. "Chuck" Ahlem
Stanislaus County

W.R. "Reg" Gomes, Ph. D.
Alameda County

Jackie E. Heather
Orange County

Joseph Jen, Ph. D.
San Luis Obispo County

A.G. Kawamura
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